

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on June 21, 2004, **CHRISTOPHER LASHLEY-BOBBITT**, age 20, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. LASHLEY-BOBBITT, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment, charging him with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, was sentenced to 87 months' imprisonment, 4 years' supervised release, and was fined \$850.

The investigation established that from at least July 2002, through January 11, 2003, LASHLEY-BOBBITT was involved with others in the distribution of crack cocaine in Carbondale and Murphysboro, Illinois. When agents executed a search warrant at a Carbondale residence where LASHLEY-BOBBITT resided with others, agents located crack cocaine, marihuana, drug scales, an assault rifle, ammunition, and \$12,600. When LASHLEY-BOBBITT was arrested, on January 11, 2003, he was in possession of approximately 5 grams of crack cocaine.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, and Southern Illinois Enforcement Group.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.